



BOROUGH OF CONGLETON

REPORT

ON THE

**Health and Sanitary Circumstances
of the Borough**

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1954.



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Medical Officer of Health—L. Rich, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector—R. G. Whiston, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—W. P. S. Rae, M.S.I.A.

(Resigned June, 1954)

E. V. Robinson, M.S.I.A.

(Appointed August, 1954)

Temporary Additional Sanitary Inspector—J. R. Adderley, M.S.I.A.
(Appointed October, 1954)

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough of Congleton.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the year 1954 on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough.

There has been an increase in the estimated population of 190 which is more than the natural increase of births over deaths.

The Infant mortality rate is low and there is a satisfactory fall in the incidence of Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough and Measles. There was only one case of Poliomyelitis notified during the year.

The rate of Council House construction was more than maintained during the year; 174 houses being completed and occupied as compared with 167 last year. It would appear that, from the number of applicants on the waiting list and the large number of houses in the town not capable of being rendered fit for human habitation at reasonable cost, the rate of progress of house construction must increase still further.

The Hug Bridge water supply has been satisfactory, both in quality and quantity. During the year, all samples submitted for analysis were satisfactory in every respect.

Schemes are in preparation for the provision of sewerage to the West Heath area and for the extension of the existing Sewage Works. It is to be hoped that these works will be put into operation during 1955.

In the field of preventive medicine, housing, water and sewerage are, together, the foundation on which we build. Without these, no amount of Health Education could be effective or realistic. They are the first essentials in our endeavours to raise the standard of well-being of our people.

This year has been marked by a most important step in the campaign against Tuberculosis. Vaccination by means of the B.C.G. Vaccine was offered to all school children between the ages of 13 and 14, and it is satisfactory to note that over 80% of the parents availed themselves of this opportunity. It is possible that as the years advance, and the children successively become immunised against Tuberculosis, this disease will disappear from the community in a similar manner to Diphtheria.

Once again, I wish to record my sincere thanks to the Clerk, his Deputy and the other members of his staff for their help and guidance during the year under review. It is with your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. R. G. Whiston, that I work most closely, and regularly we tour the town investigating complaints and dealing with housing problems. Without his knowledge and help, I could not adequately carry out my duties. I wish to thank him and Mr. Halpin, the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, for their contributions in the compilation of this report.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

L. RICH,

Medical Officer of Health.

The figures in brackets throughout this report are for 1953.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Estimated population ... 15730 (15540)

Births

		Total.	Male.	Female.
Live births	Legitimate ...	208 (224)	92 (113)	116 (111)
	Illegitimate ...	5 (8)	2 (3)	3 (5)
Still births	Legitimate ...	8 (6)	3 (3)	5 (3)
	Illegitimate ...	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)

Live birth rate per 1000 estimated average population mid. 1954 13.4 (14.4)

Live birth rate for England & Wales per 1000 of the population 15.2 (15.5)

Still birth rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 36.2 (29.2)

Still birth rate per 1000 total population .5 (.45)

Still birth rate for England & Wales per 1000 total population .36 (.35)

Infantile Mortality.

The total number of deaths is shown as follows:—

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate ...	8 (7)	5 (4)	3 (3)
Illegitimate ...	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)

Infantile mortality rate per 1000 live births 42.1 (30.1)

Infantile mortality rate for England & Wales 24 (26.8)

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births 38.4 (30.1)

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births 200 (0)

Deaths

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Deaths, all ages ...	201 (186)	101 (103)	100 (83)

Death rate per 1000 estimated average population 12.9 (12)

Death rate for England & Wales per 1000 of the population 11.3 (11.4)

The following table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the past year :—

Cause	Total	Male	Female
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	2	2	—
Tuberculosis, other ...	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease ...	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	7	5	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	5	4	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	4	—	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	—	—
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms ...	16	10	6
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	1	1	—
Diabetes ...	1	1	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	29	17	12
Coronary disease, angina ...	38	16	22
Hypertension with heart disease ...	7	3	4
Other heart diseases ...	39	15	24
Other circulatory disease ...	6	4	2
Influenza ...	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	4	2	2
Bronchitis ...	12	7	5
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	2	2	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	2	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	3	3	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	1	—	1
Congenital malformations ...	—	—	—
Other defined and ill defined diseases ...	15	6	9
Motor vehicle accidents ...	2	1	1
All other accidents ...	4	1	3
Suicide ...	1	—	1
Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—
Total ...	201	101	100

Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes:—

		No. of Deaths	
Puerperal Sepsis	...	0	(-)
Other Maternal causes	...	1	(-)
		—	—
Total	...	1	(-)
		—	—

Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births ... 4.5 (-)

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Care of Mothers and Young Children.

During the year, an Ante-Natal Clinic was re-started in the town. Formerly, the mothers had recourse to travel to Macclesfield for specialist opinion and advice. The new arrangements are not only a great convenience to the mothers, but reduce considerably the expensive item of transport. Mr. S. Henderson, F.R.C.S., M.R.C.O.G., is the specialist in charge, and from the number of new cases and attendances, it can be seen that this has proved to be a very popular move.

The work at the Infant Welfare Centre continues to flourish, and despite the inclement weather, the attendances were maintained at a high level.

Statistics.

Mothers' Clinics

	New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held
Ante-natal	164 (2)	630 (3)	49 (3)
Dental:—			
Pre-natal	3 (6)	9 (9)	
Nursing Mothers	8 (11)	19 (25)	
Dentures supplied	6 (2)		

Infant Welfare

New Cases			Total Attendances			No. of Clinics held	Cases seen by Doctor	Average per Clinic seen by Doctor
0-1	1-2	2-5	0-1	1-2	2-5			
130	-	-	1196	233	184	48	936	19.5
(148)	(1)	(2)	(1588)	(257)	(257)	(48)	(925)	(19.3)

	New Cases		Total Attendances		No. of Clinics held		Average per Clinic	
Ophthalmic Clinic	3	(5)	14	(10)	12	(12)	1.1	(.8)
E.N.T. Clinic	-	(3)	-	(3)	6	(7)	-	(.4)

Day Nurseries.

Once again, the average attendances at our Day Nursery is 100%, which is the highest in the County. There has been much criticism generally about the continued existence of Day Nurseries. It is difficult to see, here in Congleton where a large amount of female labour is employed in the factories, how we can manage without one. There is no doubt that many children would be in grave danger unless facilities such as we have at our Day Nursery were provided.

Statistics.

	Average No. Attending	Total Attendances
0-2 years	9.5 (11)	2326 (2676)
2-5 years	30.5 (29)	7533 (7224)

Midwifery.

The two midwives employed by the Cheshire County Council are :—

Name	Address	Telephone No.
D. H. Wright	Ewanrigg, Giantswood Lane, Congleton	Congleton 240
M. Williams	115, Woolston Avenue, Congleton	Congleton 690

In addition, Nurse M. S. Bowman, 4, High Lowe Avenue, Congleton, combines the duties of Home Nurse with that of District Midwife.

As pointed out in a previous report, the present policy is for approximately 50% of confinements to take place in hospital and an equal number at home. Here in Congleton, however, with a high percentage of unsatisfactory houses, many more cases must be accommodated in hospital than can be delivered at home. For your information, the figures for 1954, are as follows:—

Births 1954.

Hospital		Home		Private N. Home	
Live	Still	Live	Still	Live	Still
139	5	64	2	8	1

It is to be hoped that as the standard of housing improves, more mothers will be able have their children in their own homes. In many respects this is much the most satisfactory thing to happen.

Home Nursing.

Two District Nurses are resident in Congleton Borough. They both occupy Council Houses, one of which is furnished and maintained through the Divisional Medical Office.

Name	Address	Telephone No.
M. S. Bowman	4, High Lowe Avenue, Congleton	Congleton 444
R. Ward	20, The Westlands, Congleton	Congleton 2104

The importance of the District Nurse cannot be overstressed. Many cases are prevented from going into our very much overworked hospitals by the skill and attention she is able to administer as a Home Nurse under the instructions of the family doctor.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

The number of children receiving Combined Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough continues to grow. This figure taken together with the number of children immunised against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough separately has shown an increase over the previous year. This is fairly satisfactory, when we consider there has been a fall in the birth rate.

There has been a fall, however, in the number of children vaccinated against Smallpox. I should like to emphasize that it is a great advantage for a baby in its third or fourth month to be vaccinated. Should it be necessary to vaccinate later on in life, it can be quite a serious procedure but, whereas, an infant may be vaccinated without any upset.

Statistics.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Pre-school children	...	...	34	(90)
School children	...	...	8	(2)
			<hr/> 42	<hr/> (92)
Reinforcing Injections	...	...	88	(73)

Whooping Cough Immunisation.

Pre-school children	...	...	17	(16)
School children	...	...	5	(12)
			<hr/> 22	<hr/> (28)

Combined Immunisation (Diphtheria and Whooping Cough).

Pre-school children	...	...	165	(120)
School children	...	...	13	(7)
			<hr/> 178	<hr/> (127)

Primary Vaccination.

Pre-school children	...	...	70	(95)
School children	...	...	10	(11)
Adults	...	...	5	(26)
			<hr/> 85	<hr/> (132)

Re-Vaccination.

Pre-school children	...	...	-	( )
School children	...	...	-	(2)
Adults	...	...	15	(45)
			<hr/> 15	<hr/> (47)

Ambulance and Sitting Case Car Transport.

During the year, the Ambulance Station in Congleton completed a mileage of 45595 which is over 10000 miles more than last year. There was a fall in the mileage of cases requiring sitting-case transport by nearly 5000 miles.

The work of this service has grown continuously since 1948, and it has been considered necessary by the Divisional Health Committee to apply to the County for an additional vehicle.

I am pleased to report that we are one of the cheapest ambulance services in the County and that the year has been free from any serious complaint against this service.

Ambulance Figures—1954.

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Mileages	4344 (3247)	3178 (2961)	3157 (2743)	3383 (2974)	4041 (3728)	3097 (3866)	3716 (2459)	3689 (2338)	4351 (3016)	4607 (2686)	4054 (2095)	3978 (3541)
Journeys	153 (112)	123 (115)	144 (101)	112 (117)	127 (118)	118 (128)	123 (103)	112 (103)	122 (124)	133 (115)	132 (103)	123 (128)
Patients	440 (329)	384 (269)	292 (291)	313 (351)	376 (325)	409 (378)	521 (206)	462 (273)	517 (332)	386 (298)	343 (215)	508 (368)

Domestic Help Service.

The work of this service has fallen off slightly. However, most valuable work is being done in maintaining aged and infirm people in their own homes which is the place they want to be. It is interesting to note in Congleton and in the Division generally, we are operating the Home Help Service as extensively as anywhere in the County. Although difficulties may at times be experienced in finding suitable home helps, as a rule most of the demands are satisfactorily dealt with.

Statistics relating to the Home Help Service provided in Congleton during 1954 are as follows :—

Home Helps employed during 1954

Full Time	...	-	(1)
Temporary	...	19	(22)
Casual	...	1	(9)
		<hr/> 20	<hr/> (32)

Home Helps employed at 31st December, 1954

Full Time	...	-	(-)
Temporary	...	11	(14)
Casual	...	-	(-)
		<hr/> 11	<hr/> (14)

Applications received during 1954

Confinement	...	5	(8)
Sickness	...	10	(14)
Tuberculosis	...	-	(-)
Aged and Infirm	...	12	(24)
		<hr/> 27	<hr/> (46)

Cases attended during 1954

Confinement	...	3	(5)
Sickness	...	16	(17)
Tuberculosis	...		(2)
Aged and Infirm	...	36	(53)
		<hr/> 55	<hr/> (77)

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

I am indebted to Mr. H. S. Halpin, Borough Engineer and Surveyor, for the following information.

Water.

During the year the following quantities of water have been supplied from the various sources in the Borough :—

Hug Bridge Pumping Station	640000 galls. per day
Forge Lane Pumping Station	211000 galls. per day
Buglawton Boreholes	43000 galls. per day
Total	893000 galls. per day

Supplies have been continued to the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board to the extent of approximately 124000 galls. per day from the total quantity of water supplied.

Samples of water have been submitted for analysis from time to time to the County Analyst and the Public Health Laboratory, Stafford, and in all cases the chemical and bacteriological examinations have proved to be quite satisfactory.

The hardness of the water at present supplied from Forge Lane is 27 parts per 100000 whilst the Hug Bridge water has a total hardness of 19 and the Buglawton Borehole approximately 5 parts per 100000.

Schemes are in hand for the provision of new water mains in Congleton Edge Road and Cloudside which will enable properties at present supplied by wells to be connected to the Public Supply.

Drainage and Sewerage.

A scheme has been prepared for the sewerage of the West Heath Area of the Borough and has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The scheme allows for the development of approximately 260 acres of the Borough for residential purposes and will

also enable approximately 100 existing properties which are at present drained to septic tanks or cesspools to be connected to the Public Sewer.

A scheme is also in course of preparation for the extension of the existing Sewage Works on the present site to cater for a population of 30000 persons.

Trouble is still being experienced at the present works due to severe overloading. An attempt has been made to improve the quality of the final effluent by dosing the sedimentation tanks with a chemical precipitant in the form of alumino ferric. By this means it has also been possible to obtain a sludge of greater density and the general condition of the Bacteria Beds has improved considerably.

Public Cleansing.

A total of 4200 tons of House Refuse has been collected and disposed of by controlled tipping during the year.

Salvage.

		Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	...	44	8	0	326	9	0
Kitchen Waste	.	69	6	0	271	10	10
Light Scrap	...	1	12	0	6	8	0
Tins	...	2	0	0	4	0	0
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		117	6	0	£608	7	10
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Housing.

Number of Council Houses completed in 1954			
Houses	...	174	(167)
Bungalows	...	3	(10)
Number of Applicants on the Waiting List at 31st December, 1954 (excluding applications for aged persons bungalows)			
	...	512	(547)
Number of Visits re Housing Applications			
Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector	...	51	(32)

**PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS DISEASE.**

There has been a satisfactory reduction in the incidence of Measles, Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever. It is to be hoped that as the Whooping Cough Vaccine becomes more and more used, the incidence of this disease will disappear in a similar manner to Diphtheria.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year, 1954.

Disease.	Age Distribution.											Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
	Under 1 yr.	1- 2-	2- 3-	3- 4-	4- 5-	5-10-	10-15-	15-20-	20-35-	35-45-	45- 65 and over			
Scarlet Fever	1	—	2	3	—	11	4	—	1	—	—	22	10	—
Whooping Cough	1	2	1	—	5	12	—	—	—	—	—	21	—	—
Measles	3	14	10	8	6	13	1	—	—	—	—	55	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	5	3	6	26	4	4
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—

Tuberculosis.

For comparative purposes I have recorded the notifications of Tuberculosis during 1954 in conjunction with the notifications of this disease received each year since 1945.

Notifications—1945 to 1954.

	1945		1946		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1954	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 yr.				I																
1 - 5		I		I							I		I				I		2	
5 - 15		I			3		2		2		I	I	I		I		4	2	I	
15 - 25	3	I	I		I						I		I	I			I			
25 - 35	3				I	2		3		3		I		I		I		I		
35 - 45	2	I	I		2		I	2	I	2					I					
45 - 55	2		2	I	I			I		2				I						
55 - 65	I				2			I		I		2		2					I	
65 & over	I		I		2								I	I		2	I			
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 yr.						I		I												
1 - 5					2		I						I							
5 - 15		4		I		I			2				I				2		I	
15 - 25	3		4		I	I	I		I	I	5		5		2		I		I	
25 - 35	I		2			3				4		I		2	I	2		I		
35 - 45			I			I			I		I				I					
45 - 55								I		I										I
55 - 65						I		I		I							I			
65 & over																				
TOTAL	16	8	12	4	9	8	10	4	10	7	20	3	13	4	9	4	6	10	6	5

Deaths—1945 to 1954.

MALE	1945		1946		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1954	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
Up to 1 yr.																				
1 - 5		1					1				1									
5 - 15					1															
15 - 25							1					1								
25 - 35					1			1				1					1			
35 - 45	1	1	1		1			1			1								1	
45 - 55	3		4				1				1				2					
55 - 65	2		2		1						1		1							
65 & over	1		1		3								1				1		1	

FEMALE

Up to 1 yr.					1															
1 - 5													1							
5 - 15																				
15 - 25	2						1		1											
25 - 35			1														1			
35 - 45									1											
45 - 55																				
55 - 65																		1		
65 & over							1													
TOTAL	9	2	9	-	6	2	3	2	4	-	3	1	3	2	2	-	2	2	2	-

The notification rate in Congleton of all forms of Tuberculosis per thousand of the population is .7 as compared with 1.03 the previous year and the death rate is .12 as compared with .19 for 1953.

Cases on the Tuberculosis Register at 31st December, 1954, were as follows :—

	Up to 1 yr.	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65 & over	Total
Male Pulmonary	—	—	3	1	9	15	8	7	6	49
Female Pulmonary	—	—	1	7	16	8	13	7	2	54
Male Non-Pulmonary	—	3	9	10	3	4	2	1	—	32
Female Non-Pulmonary	—	—	4	3	2	1	4	2	1	17

There has been no important change in the overall picture of notifications and deaths from Tuberculosis. Our Register probably gives an exaggerated picture of the true position. The reason for this statement is that some individuals remain on the register because they do not attend at the Clinic for final check-up and clearance. When these cases are investigated it is very often found that they have been working well for some length of time and are in a perfectly good state of health. A drive is being made to encourage these people to have their final check-up so that their names may be removed from the Register. It is hoped that in next year's report a more realistic picture of the situation in the town will be available.

Contacts of notified cases are invariably followed up very closely by the Health Visitors and the Chest Clinic so that there should be a limitation of spread of infection. Where necessary, contacts are vaccinated with B.C.G. Vaccine.

Mention has already been made of the new campaign to vaccinate school children. The reason why this group has been chosen is because it has been found that the majority of people become infected with

Tuberculosis while at work. By protecting school children adequately, it is hoped that they will have some immunity well established before leaving school prior to entering factories or other workplaces

The following sections of this report cover the work of the Sanitary Inspector's Department and have been compiled by Mr. R. G. Whiston the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

Number
of Visits.

General.

Water supply	...	...	97
Drainage	...	...	399
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	14
Caravans	...	...	10
Factories	...	...	33
Rats & Mice	...	...	24
Schools	...	...	4
Shops Acts	...	...	6
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	200
Interviewing & Appointments	...	...	303
Refuse Collection	...	...	2
Smoke observations	...	...	9
Pet Animals Act	...	...	2
Pail Conversions	...	...	8

HOUSING

Under Public Health Acts.

Number of Houses Inspected	...	183
Re-visits to Houses previously Inspected	...	361

Under Housing Acts.

Number of Houses Inspected	...	7
Re-visits to Houses previously Inspected	...	102

Overcrowding.

Number of Houses Inspected	...	2
----------------------------	-----	---

			Number of Visits
<i>Verminous Premises.</i>			
Number of Houses Inspected	...	...	175
Found verminous and disinfested	...	...	3
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	...	...	141
Improvement Grants	...	...	19
Housing Survey	...	...	3255

Infectious Diseases.

Inquiries in cases of Infectious Diseases	...	...	28
Visits re Disinfection	...	...	8
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	...	...	16

Food Premises and Food Inspection.

Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	1041
Butchers	...	...	22
Fishmongers & Poulterers	...	...	2
Grocers	...	...	49
Dairies & Milkshops	...	...	10
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	37
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	26
Bakehouses	...	...	16
Market Stalls	...	...	3
Restaurants	...	...	5
Miscellaneous	...	...	14
Factory Canteens	...	...	1

Visits in connection with Sampling.

Milk	...	...	18
Ice Cream	...	...	6
Total			<u>6601</u>

Summary of Notices Served.

Number of Informal Notices Served	...	...	128
Number of Informal Notices Complied with	...	...	121
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	2
Number of Statutory Notices Complied with	...	...	15

Complaints.

During the year 169 complaints were received and investigated; 20 of these were unfounded.

34 were found to be relating to dangerous structures, gas and water leakages and other matters and were referred to the Departments concerned.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.***Nuisances.***

Following complaints and as a result of routine survey, 183 houses were inspected, a total of 206 nuisances were found and 114 informal notices were issued. In 2 cases statutory notices were served. 361 visits were made to houses previously inspected and 202 nuisances were found to be abated. 108 informal and 15 statutory notices were complied with.

Drainage.

Installation of new drainage at all premises, except Corporation owned properties, and repair of defective drainage was supervised and the necessary testing carried out. 399 visits were made in connection with this work and the tracing of existing drainage at various properties.

Water Supply.

Routine samples were taken monthly from each of the town's systems of supply and sent to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Stafford, for Bacteriological examination. The reports on samples submitted showed satisfactory results.

Disinfestation.

D.D.T. and Gammexane compounds in liquid and powder form are used for this purpose, and successful results have been obtained.

The houses and household effects of new tenants for Council Houses are inspected and where necessary disinfestation is undertaken before removal. For this and other reasons, 175 inspections have been carried out and 3 premises treated.

Conversions of Pails.

The Council's scheme for compulsory conversion of pails to water closets was completed, a total of 63 have been done at a cost £1422 - 19 - 9, an average of £22 - 12 - 8 each, the Council bearing half the cost, namely £711 - 9 - 10.

Offensive Trades.

One premises is registered for tripe boiling, and is constructed on modern hygienic lines. No complaints were received in connection with the trade. 4 inspections were carried out during the year.

Infectious Disease and Disinfection.

Enquiries have been made into 28 cases of infectious disease. Disinfection of premises following these, and removals and deaths of T.B. cases, has been carried out and where necessary infected bedding has been taken to the Isolation Hospital, Macclesfield, for disinfection by steam.

Infected library books are treated with gaseous fumigant before return for circulation.

Caravans.

10 visits have been made in connection with the control of moveable dwellings.

1 licence to station and use a caravan was issued.

Public Mortuary.

This service is under the charge of the Department and during the year there have been 12 admissions.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936-54.

7 houses were inspected under the provisions of the Housing Acts, and 102 revisits were made to houses previously inspected.

4 condemned houses in Clearance Areas have been demolished and the sites cleared. The demolition of 2 Clearance Areas has been completed.

Housing Survey.

A survey of the houses in the Borough was commenced for the purpose of categorising premises for future action. 3251 visits were made.

Table showing the position of Condemned Houses.

	1952.	1953.	1954.
Number of occupied houses in confirmed clearance areas	20	17	10
Number of occupied houses in areas represented but not confirmed	44	44	41
Number of vacant houses in confirmed clearance areas	27	23	18
Number of vacant houses in areas represented but not confirmed	1	1	1
Number of individual unfit houses occupied ...	6	3	4
Number of individual unfit houses vacant ...	4	5	-

Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925-1932.

Number of Houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation ...	111
Number of Houses, the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	108

Number of representations made to the local authority with a view to :—		
(a) serving of notices requiring the execution of works (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	2	
(b) the making of demolition or closing orders ...	2	
Number of notices served requiring the execution of works (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	2	
Number of Houses which were rendered fit after the service of formal notices (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	15	
Number of Demolition Orders made ...	—	
Number of Closing Orders made ...	2	
Number of Houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under sub-section (2) of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 ...	—	
Number of Houses demolished ...	4	

Improvement Grants.

10 applications were received during the year and all were granted. The cost of improvement works varied from £120 to £1237 and in each case the Council contributed half the cost.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Food Premises.

Number of food premises in the area by type of business is as follows :—

Butchers	...	...	25
Canteens	...	...	23
Dairies	...	...	7
Milkshops	...	...	35
Fishmongers and Poulterers	...	...	5
Greengrocers	...	...	10
Grocers and Confectioners	...	...	109
Restaurants and Cafe	.	.	26
Bakehouses			8

156 inspections of premises used for the preparation, storage or sale of food were carried out. 19 contraventions were found and 6 informal notices issued. On re-inspection 33 contraventions had been abated, and 8 notices complied with.

Ice Cream.

There are 9 premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream. 8 of these use the "cold mix" method and the remaining one has the necessary plant for heat treatment in accordance with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

49 premises are registered for the sale only of ice cream.

37 inspections have been made and 11 samples of ice cream were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Stafford for Bacteriological examination by the Methylene blue test. Results showed 9 samples Grade 1, 2 Grade 2.

Preserved Food.

28 premises are registered for the manufacture of preserved food (sausages, potted and pressed meats, etc.) and 26 inspections of these premises carried out.

Milk & Dairies Regulations.

Registered are 9 Dairies and 55 Distributors.

Under the Special Designation Regulations, 24 licences have been issued for Tuberculin Tested Milk, 15 for Pasteurised Milk and 44 for Sterilized Milk.

10 visits have been made in connection with registration and licensing.

Slaughterhouses.

From January until the end of June, slaughtering was carried out at two Slaughterhouses which were under the control of the Ministry of Food. From July, five private Slaughterhouses have been operating and the Council issued yearly licences for these premises. No applications were received from the remaining five private Slaughterhouses in the Borough and as the Council have resolved under Section 4 of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1954, not to grant or renew any further licences other than those in force, these five Slaughterhouses can now be considered as Closed.

1041 visits were made in connection with meat inspection and renewals of licences.

Disposal of Condemned Food.

Up to the end of June all condemned meat was disposed of by the Ministry of Food. From July, meat and offal condemned is collected by the Council and sold to Messrs. Beeson Bros., of Crewe, expenses are deducted and the balance is paid to the Slaughterhouse occupiers.

MEAT & OTHER FOOD INSPECTION.

Total number of Animals Slaughtered and Inspected.

	Bulls	Steers	Cows	Heifers	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
1952	8	56	791	296	1070	4250	687	7158
1953	5	99	822	228	333	4261	741	6489
Jan/June 1954	5	35	462	39	153	2050	924	3668
July/Dec 1954	3	154	878	509	364	7127	1875	10910
Total 1954	8	189	1340	548	517	9177	2799	14578

***Particulars of Animals Slaughtered at each of the
Private Slaughterhouses. July/Dec. 1954.***

Slaughterhouse	Bulls	Steers	Cows	Heifers	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
E.&G. Vernon West Street	-	14	108	30	13	704	311	1180
J. Clowes Antrobus St	-	12	8	28	13	365	24	450
J.F. Longman Princess St	3	86	690	323	337	5431	1227	8097
Co-op Society Moor Street	-	42	27	117	-	601	231	1018
W. Bennett Wagg Street	-	-	45	11	1	26	82	165

Condemnations.

		Cattle Ex. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	...	745	1340	517	9177	2799
All diseases except Tuberculosis.						
Whole Carcasses condemned	...	1	2	56	38	23
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	83	248	6	1096	364
Percentage affected with diseases, other than Tuberculosis	1952	23.33	35.9	10.1	23.48	17.61
	1953	33.43	39.29	21.02	32.36	17.81
	1954	11.38	18.66	11.99	12.36	13.83
Tuberculosis						
Whole Carcasses condemned	...	7	16	—	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	77	336	—	—	152
Percentage affected with Tuberculosis	1952	20.84	35.27	.75	—	11.21
	1953	16.87	34.67	.6	—	6.86
	1954	11.38	26.27	—	—	5.5

**Particulars of Casualty Animals from Farm Premises and Ungraded
Cattle from the Cattle Markets, Slaughtered at Owners Risk
Jan./June 1954**

(included in totals for condemnations and No. of animals killed)

	Bulls	Steers	Cows	Heifers	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
1952	1	2	65	7	283	72	191	621
1953	3	—	54	7	112	102	110	388
1954	3	1	37	4	58	67	226	396

Weight of Meat Condemned in respect of Casualties
Jan./June 1954

(included in totals for condemnations)

		Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Beef	...	2	6	1	20
Mutton	...	—	10	3	17
Veal	...	—	10	3	3
Pork	...	—	12	1	6
Offal	...	1	13	2	19
Total		5	14	—	9

Weight of Meat Condemned
Jan./June 1954

		Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Beef	...	5	—	3	13
Mutton	...	—	15	1	25
Veal	...	—	12	3	11
Pork	...	—	18	6	13
Offal	...	4	1	2	9
Total		11	10	1	15

Weight of Meat Condemned at Private Slaughterhouses
July/Dec. 1954

	Beef lbs.	Mutton lbs.	Veal lbs.	Pork lbs.	Offal lbs.
E. & G. Vernon, West Street	1508	—	255	114	1911
J. Clowes, Antrobus Street	—	—	—	102	292
J. F. Longman, Princess Street	5046	691	413	1682	10922
Co-op. Society, Moor Street	1723	—	—	—	972
W. Bennett, Wagg Street	—	—	—	141	423
Total	8277	691	668	2039	14520

Weight of Meat Condemned, 1954.

		Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Beef	...	8	14	3	2
Mutton	...	1	1	2	16
Veal	...	—	18	3	7
Pork	...	1	17	2	16
Offal	...	10	2	2	5
Total	...	22	15	1	18

Other Foods Condemned.

		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Canned Goods	...	3	2	25
Provisions	...	—	—	19
Other Foods	...	5	2	13
Total	...	9	2	1

Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

19 Cows were slaughtered under the provisions of the above Order. 11 were found to be affected with advanced Tuberculosis and the whole carcasses and organs were condemned, 8 were found to be affected with non-advanced Tuberculosis and the affected parts and organs were condemned.

Congenital Tuberculosis in Calves.

During the year no carcasses of calves were found to be affected with Congenital Tuberculosis.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

The stunning of all animals in the Borough is carried out by means of captive bolt pistols.

2 Slaughtermen's Licences were issued and 32 renewed during the year.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The Council has one full time operative whose duties are concerned with the destruction of rats and mice.

24 visits have been made by Sanitary Inspectors in connection with complaints and general supervision.

All work at business premises was carried out after written or verbal informal intimation had been given and no statutory notices have been served.

A summary of the incidence and treatment carried out is appended.

Prevalence of Rats and Mice.

	Type of Property.				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business and Industrial)	
Total number of properties in Local Authority's district ...	37	4666	126	889	5718
Number of properties inspected as a result of					
(a) notification ...	8	96	6	40	150
(b) otherwise ...	8	51	88	38	185
Number of properties found to be infested by rats ...	Major —	—	—	—	—
	Minor 16	73	55	46	190
Number of properties found to be infested by mice...	—	55	2	30	87
Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority	14	120	8	54	198

Maintenance Treatment for Rats in Sewers.

It is estimated that there are 425 man-holes in the Borough, a test bait of 10% of these was undertaken and two treatments carried out during the year.

At the first treatment 44 man-holes were pre-baited, 4 showed "Takes" and were poisoned; at the second, 28 man-holes were pre-baited and 10 poisoned.

Shops Act, 1950.

6 Inspections have been carried out under the provisions of the Act, 1 contravention was noted and as a result 1 informal notice was served, and complied with.

Factory Act, 1937.

33 inspections have been made and a summary of visits, contravention and notices is as follows :—

Inspections.

Premises	Number on Register	No. of Inspect- ions	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	7	1	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	135	32	3	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	142	33	3	—

Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were	
	Found	Remedied
Sanitary Conveniences		
(a) insufficient ...	—	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	4
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—
Total ...	3	5

1 Certificate has been granted during 1954 in respect of adequate means of escape in case of fire, under Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937.

Outworkers.

A total of 5 outworkers are shown as employed by Factories in the area in the lists submitted in accordance with Section 110 of the Act. All are engaged on the making, altering or repairing of wearing apparel.

